



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



COLLECTION, PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION

Rich in history, the National Guard takes pride in collecting and preserving their heritage. These precious artifacts paint a picture of their missions from the Militia Era to the Gulf War Era and provide a great opportunity to enhance public understanding of their role in shaping this world.

Capturing and securing this history is no easy task, but museum directors throughout the United States take pride in preserving this story. The South Dakota National Guard Museum will host the NGB Museum Advisory Council (MAC) Museum Summer Training Conference August 20 -24, 2012, at the Ramkota in Rapid City. Approximately 40 attendees from around the United States who are National Guard museum professionals will be in attendance.

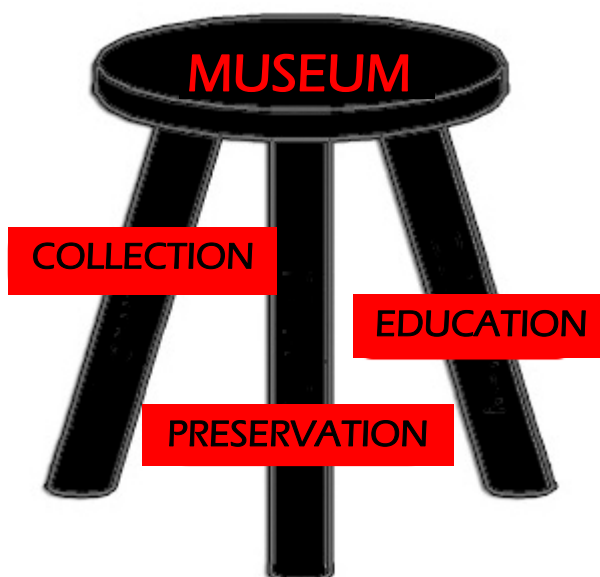
Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, Adjutant General of the South Dakota National Guard, will open the conference by welcoming attendees to this great state. The conference begins at 8:30 am on Tuesday, August 21, and concludes at 4:30 pm on Thursday, August 23.

Bob Kusser, former director of the South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre, was instrumental in securing this conference in South Dakota and has served as the point of contact for this event. Sonja Johnson, current director of the SDNG Museum will serve as one of the presenters for the conference and will be making a presentation on museum gift shops. Her presentation will address: the culture of the museum, gift items to carry, pricing, displaying of gift items, tracking inventory and theft prevention.

Other presentations will address: funding; presentation and care of flags, textiles and garments; environmental impacts; storing and handling of archives; digitizing libraries; deaccessioning; exhibit designs and case building; visitor interaction; use of social media; artifact classification and MOUs. Attendees will also be touring Mount Rushmore and the Old Fort Meade Calvary Museum.

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GUARD UNIT TRAINS ON CONVOY ATTACKS, MEDICAL EVACUATION

Recently, the South Dakota Army National Guard's 740th Transportation Company, of Milbank and Aberdeen, went through a circuit of training designed to respond to convoy attacks and medical evacuation procedures.

The primary focus of the training was to call in a medical evacuation, properly secure a casualty on a litter, and safely approach a medical evacuation helicopter to load the casualties. They also practiced loading casualties into a ground ambulance. The 740th Soldiers also conducted convoy lanes training.

"It was the most amazing training experience I have ever had in my 12 years in the National Guard," said Sgt. Tynna Phillips, heavy vehicle driver.

Some 740th Soldiers acted as the enemy, while others drove their M915 tractors through the convoy lanes training. Different scenarios were made on gravel roads such as small arms fire, removing road blocks and improvised explosive devices.

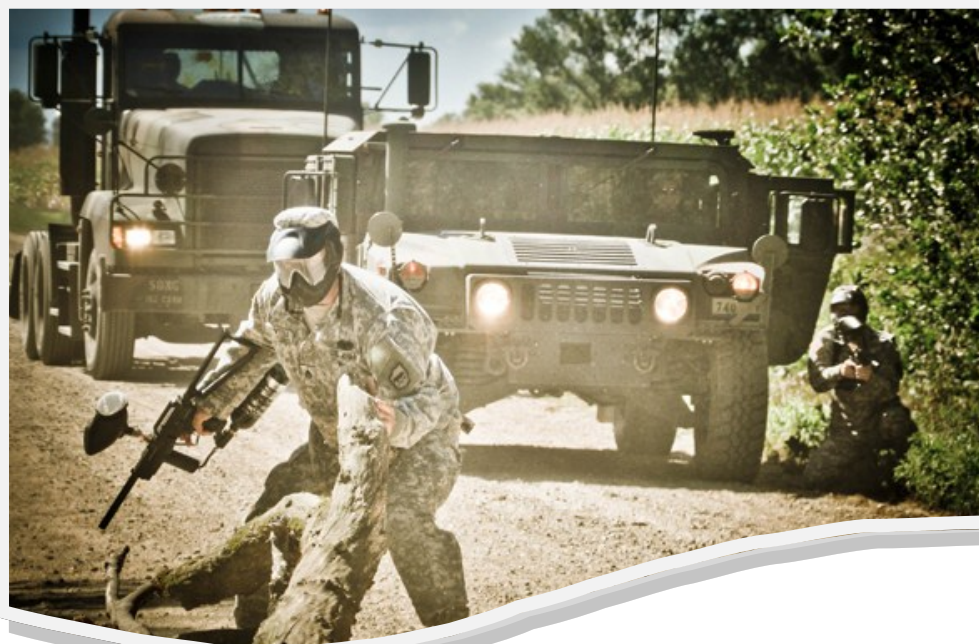
"Lanes training is a good test of our driving skills, shooting skills and alertness of the surrounding area," said Spc. Steve Spors, heavy vehicle driver. "It gives us realistic training to prepare for a possible deployment."

The soldiers trained on the proper ways to handle each scenario and what to be alert for when traveling through hostile areas.

"You can walk through the motions of calling in a MEDEVAC (medical evacuation), but you can't replace the hands-on training of calling in the MEDEVAC and physically loading casualties on the helicopter," said Schafer. "You top that off with lanes and medical training and it made for a great training day."

The 740th partnered with members of the SDARNG's 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, of Rapid City, and 730th Area Support Medical Company, of Vermillion, to complete the training.

"None of this could've been done without additional support from outside resources," said Schafer. "All and all, it was a great team-building and morale-boosting event."



REISCH RECOGNIZED FOR GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Recently, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Office in Sioux Falls implemented an “*employee of the month*” program in an effort to recognize employee’s achievements and contributions. Submissions for the award come from peers and supervisors.

“Employee of the month is our way of recognizing our employee’s achievements and contributions,” said Aaron Pollard, Veterans Claims Supervisor. “Being happy with what you do reflects in your work, in your natural attitude, it’s contagious and it sets an example for others to see.”



Tim Reisch, veterans service officer, was selected as the “August employee of the month” for the claims office.

Pollard noted that Reisch is an important piece to their puzzle and appreciates Tim’s dedication and commitment to South Dakota’s veterans and their families.



VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

You are invited to attend the Free *Veteran Virtual Career Fair* on August 21-23, 2012. Through this event, you will be able to learn about new VA job opportunities and participate in the following career-readiness activities:

- Chat with career coaches
- Participate in training webinars
- Receive VA career match assistance
- Conduct a federal-wide job search

Veterans and Military Service Members are welcome to attend. To register, please visit:

www.veteransvirtualcareerfair.com and complete your profile.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact a VA for Vets Career Coach at 1-855-VA4VETS (1-855-824-8387).

The Veteran Employment Services Office (VESO) oversees VA for Vets, a comprehensive career management program that enables veterans to successfully join the federal civilian workforce. To learn more, visit www.VAforVets.VA.gov.

Free Veteran Virtual Career Fair
August 21-23, 2012

Launch Your Career at VA
Learn More About New Opportunities

Virtual Career Fair Activities

- Career coaching
- Training webinars
 - Resume building
 - Interview techniques
- VA career match assistance and federal job search

Register Now
www.VeteransVirtualCareerFair.com

VA for VETS
YOUR GATEWAY TO VA CAREERS

JOINING FORCES

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

JOB FAIR FOCUSES ON VETERANS

This week military veterans, and their spouses, from the Sioux Falls area had the opportunity to meet with potential employers as well as representatives of numerous state agencies and veterans service organizations.

The job fair titled, "Hiring Our Heroes," is a part of a nationwide effort to assist veterans transition back into their civilian workforce.

Kevin Swanson and George Arends, Field Officers for the SD Department of Veterans Affairs were on hand to assist veterans with their benefits and to answer any questions they might have with regard to the services and benefits available to them.

Veterans, and or their spouses, unable to attend the job fair can contact their local Department of Labor office, and they will put them in contact with many of those same employers. To locate the Department of Labor office in your region visit the DOL Website: <http://dlr.sd.gov/vet/vetreps.aspx>.



BRITTON TO BE CAPITAL FOR A DAY

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has announced that Britton has been chosen to be South Dakota's Capital for a Day on Oct. 3.

"I look forward to the Britton event, and thank community leaders for offering to host it," the Governor said. "It's an excellent opportunity for me to get better acquainted with them and more informed about local issues and the future of the Britton area."

Gov. Daugaard and a small delegation of state officials will have a coffee and constituent hour and tour Britton on the morning of Oct. 3. Roundtable meetings with business and community leaders will also be held that day.



The View is Great From Here!

Britton
SOUTH DAKOTA

BELLE FOURCHE SHELTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS CLOSES

It was announced this week that the Women of War residential training center for homeless women veterans closed Monday in Belle Fourche.

Emily Wolff, legal advisor for C-VISN in Belle Fourche that built and staffed the facility under a separate board, said the Veterans Administration didn't close the center, but was on hand Monday to relocate the five residents there. "It was our financial situation that closed us," she said.

It was estimated that it would take 18 residents to break even and then at a full 28-person capacity, the loans could be paid back. Eight women veterans were the most ever registered at the center. Efforts were made over the past few months to obtain additional funding from numerous resources, but the efforts were not successful.



SD GUARD RECEIVES UPGRADED HELICOPTER

The South Dakota Army National Guard received its first L-model UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City, which will provide an enhanced capability for air crews combating wild-land fires and other support missions.

The L-model Black Hawk increases the operational load capacity of the aircraft through improved engines, transmission and flight controls.

The UH-60L will be assigned to the Rapid City-based Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, which recently returned from deployment in Iraq and Kuwait in May. The unit now has five A models, in addition to the L model.



Upcoming Events

Aug. 22—SFVAHCS Annual Show and Shine—VA Sioux Falls (2501 W. 22nd Street)
Aug. 22—Tops in Blue Concert—Washington Pavilion Great Hall—Sioux Falls (7:00 pm)
Aug. 23—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rosebud/Mission
Aug. 27-29—VSO Annual Benefits School—Pierre
Aug. 27—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rapid City
Aug. 29—Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Stand Down—McLaughlin
Aug. 30—Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Stand Down—Eagle Butte
Aug. 30– Sept. 3—SD State Fair—Huron (Veterans Day—Aug. 30)
Sept. 11—Stand Down—Wagner National Guard Armory—610 E. SD HWY 46
(10:00 am—2:00 pm)
Sept. 14—Stand Down—Watertown
Sept. 21—Stand Down—Sioux Falls - VFW—3601 S. Minnesota Ave. (9:00 am—3:00 pm)
Sept 21—POW MIA DAY
Sept. 25—Stand Down—Aberdeen Civic Center—203 S. Washington (2:00 pm—7:00 pm)
Sept. 25 Pierre Homeless Connect
Sept. 30—Gold Star Mothers Day
Oct. 19—SFVAHCS Women Veterans Conference—Sioux Falls Holiday Inn City Centre



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